**Boosting Exports with the Aid of State Governments**

1711. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the possibility of sharing the export earnings with the State Governments in order to boost exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to involve the State Governments in promoting exports;

(d) whether sharing of export earnings with the States will benefit only the developed States at the cost of backward States; and

(e) if so, what are the remedies contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Governments have been requested to create institutional framework for attending to the problems of exporters and undertake policy measures which would facilitate larger production and exports.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) of this Question.

**Shifting the Tea Board Head Office from West Bengal to Assam**

1712. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to shift the Tea Board Head Office from West Bengal to Assam;

(b) whether the West Bangal Government has opposed the move; and

(c) if not, what are the causes for the delay in shifting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no proposal to shift the Tea Board head office from West Bangal to Assam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Setting up of a Task Force to Project and Market Indian Industrial Products A broad**

1713. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a task force to project and market Indian industrial products abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have already been taken by Government or whether there is any obstruction for setting up such a task force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A group of Industry & Officials has been constituted under the Chairmanship of President, Confederation of Indian Industry to work out specific measures to improve the image of Indian goods and services abroad.

**Plight of Tobacco Growers in Andhra Pradesh**

@1714. DR NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to alleviate the plight of tobacco growers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) There

@Previously Unstarred Question 1372 transferred from the 8th May, 1992.